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AMERICAN ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

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THE CHICAGO PEACE CONGRESS.

The program for the Peace Congress on the 14th-20th of August is nearing completion. Some of the persons with whom the committee are in communication as to papers, etc., have not yet given a decisive answer. We give however a little synopsis of the arrangements to date, for the benefit of those desiring information.

The name of the president of the Congress we cannot yet announce with certainty. Hon. Josiah Quincy, Assistant Secretary of State, Robert Treat Paine, Hodgson Pratt, Esq., Alfred H. Love and others will act as vice-presidents.

Mr. Hezekiah Butterworth of the *Youth's Companion* will read the opening poem. Other poems will be read during the course of the Congress by "Bessie Beach," of Washington, and by Marie Louise Eve, of Augusta, Georgia.

On the origin, principles and work of peace societies papers will be read by Dr. W. Evans Darby and William C. Braithwaite, Esq., of London, and by Mr. Elie Ducommun, secretary of the International Peace Bureau at Berne. The latter will give an account of the origin and development of peace congresses and conferences and of the International Peace Bureau.

On the Economic Aspects of War, papers will be read by Angelo Mazzoleni of Milan, Italy, by Dr. Adolf Richter, of Pforzheim, Germany, and probably also by Frédéric Passy, of Paris, and by Dr. Franz Wirth, of Frankfort, Germany.

The topic "Woman and War" will be treated in papers by Mrs. L. Ormiston Chant, of London, Mrs. Amanda Deyo, of Scranton, Pa., Mrs. Edward Roby, of Chicago, and probably also by the Baroness Von Suttner, of Vienna, Austria.

The most important topic to receive attention at the Congress will be that of an international tribunal of arbitration. A plan for such a tribunal is being prepared by Hon. Dorman B. Eaton, William Allen Butler, Esq., and Cephas Brainerd, Esq., all well-known jurists of New York. A paper on the same subject will be read prepared by Sir Edmond Hornby, of London, supplementary to and explanatory of his already published plan of an international tribunal. This paper will treat especially of the unsatisfactory character of tribunals created for special cases. General Charles H. Howard, of Chicago, will give the military man's view of arbitration.

Hon. William E. Curtis, late Chief of the Bureau of American Republics, will read a paper on the Results of the Pan-American Congress of 1890. Sr. Don Nicanor

Bolet Peraza, of Venezuela, and Sr. Don Manuel M. Peralta, of Costa Rica, both of whom were members of the Pan-American Conference, have consented to be present and speak on the subject. Other members of the Pan-American Conference have been invited to take part in the discussion, but have not yet replied.

On the "Fraternal Union of Peoples" we have the promise of a paper by Hodgson Pratt, President of the International Arbitration and Peace Association of London.

E. T. Moneta, President of the Lombard Peace Union, Italy, has promised to read a paper but has not yet given the subject, so has also Hon. John W. Hoyt, of Washington.

Dr. Philip S. Moxom, of Boston, will be one of the speakers, at the Sabbath morning meeting, on the moral and religious aspects of the peace movement.

Some parts of the program are not yet completed, but will be soon. There will be discussion in short addresses of all the topics introduced. Various questions connected with the peace propaganda in schools, in the press, etc., will be discussed in sectional meetings or special conferences. One of the most important of the special meetings will be an ecclesiastical conference in reference to a petition from the various Christian bodies of the world to governments in behalf of arbitration. This conference will be called by Rev. W. A. Campbell, D. D., of Richmond, Va., and will meet on Wednesday, the 16th of August.

Many persons who have been invited to take part in the exercises have declined on account of other arrangements for August, but nearly all have expressed their deep sympathy with the movement. The prospects for a large and interesting Congress are growing more encouraging every day as the time for the meeting approaches. It is to be hoped that the friends of peace will sufficiently see the importance of the occasion not to let any ordinary circumstance keep them away from the Congress.

THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

Central America, situated between Mexico on the northwest and the isthmus of Panama at the other extremity, consists of the republics of Guatemala, Honduras, San Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and a small strip of land known as British Honduras. The area of the entire country is a little less than two hundred thousand square miles, or about four times that of the State of New York. This territory fell into the power of the Spaniards soon after its discovery in 1502, and remained subject to the Spanish crown until 1821, when it revolted and some of the States connected themselves with Mexico.

The efforts of these Central American States after

union and peace among themselves have lasted up to the present time, but without any permanent success. In 1823, they formed the Central American Confederation, which lasted till 1839, when Honduras and Nicaragua withdrew followed by Costa Rica in 1840, and Guatemala in 1847. In 1872, a Central American Union was formed by Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and San Salvador, for the purpose of securing peace among the States and to each a republican form of government. This union provided for a Congress to make the necessary laws for securing the ends aimed at. Republican government has been maintained, but the peace for which they have been striving has been broken by various misunderstandings and quarrels between the States, until at last the country is reduced to a very deplorable condition.

Last year a treaty of peace and friendship was drafted by the Central American Diet which met in the capital of San Salvador. This treaty was signed by the plenipotentiaries of Guatemala, Honduras, San Salvador and Nicaragua, the representative from Costa Rica protesting. This treaty has just been rejected by the Congress and Executive of Guatemala by a nearly unanimous vote, for reasons which are not known. Great excitement is said to prevail in San Salvador where it is thought that Guatemala intends to invade and attempt to annex Honduras and perhaps Salvador. Secret messengers have been sent to the other States asking for co-operation or neutrality in case of such an attempt by Guatemala. The Congress of San Salvador has been called to meet in extra session to discuss the situation.

In view of possible hostilities at an early day business is nearly completely paralyzed in Salvador. Only the necessities of life are bought and sold. Flour has gone up to sixteen dollars a barrel in gold, and imports are greatly diminished.

The trouble in these States of Central America, as in some of the South American republics, is a very radical one. There is no doubt that the desire for liberty and for peace and union is, on the part of many from all the republics, genuine. Monarchical government would not be tolerated. But liberty becomes almost another name for lawlessness when it is made the excuse for all sorts of selfish ambition and schemes for political power and abuse of political position. This is the situation in Central America, so far as we can read it. The country is cursed with adventurers. Some of these get into power and others are jealous of them and plot their overthrow. The people are not strong enough in enlightenment and particularly in moral sentiment to rid themselves of these schemers. Indeed, many of them have the same spirit and are ready to follow any ambitious leader who makes plenty of promises. The efforts made for free government, for peace and union are praiseworthy, but they will bear no permanent fruit until they are directed by righteousness and by a self-sacrificing desire for the good of others. The root

of jealousy and of strife, a selfish and evil spirit, remaining, distraction and discord will continually be coming to the surface. Peace is the fruit of righteousness, self-control, love of one's neighbor and respect for his rights. This the Central Americans will some day learn, after having seen their countries rent with civil strife, their business prostrated and the schemes of selfish adventurers one after another come to naught.

SINKING OF THE VICTORIA.

While the British war fleet in the Mediterranean was manœuvring off Tripoli on the 23d ult., the Victoria was run into by the Camperdown and sank almost immediately, carrying down nearly 400 officers and men. This is one of the greatest disasters with which the British navy has recently met.

The Victoria was one of the largest and best constructed of the ships of the navy. She was built in 1887 at a cost of three and a half millions of dollars. She was a 12,000 horse power vessel with a displacement of 10,470 tons. She was protected with armor 18 inches thick. She carried 44 guns, one of which was a 29-ton gun and two 111-ton guns. She had a powerful ram and eight torpedo tubes.

When the Camperdown struck her, nearly at right angles, a great hole was torn in her steel-covered side, the water rushed in in torrents, and before the bulkheads could be closed she turned to one side, was almost instantly capsized by the enormous weight of her big guns, etc., and went to the bottom with more than half of all on board.

It is an appalling disaster and one that could scarcely have happened to any vessel except one of these new and supposedly nearly indestructible warships. It seems from this event that these ships are really death traps, instead of protecting fortresses. The heavy steel plating is no protection against the ponderous beaks of hostile vessels, a well aimed blow of which in an engagement would be more destructive than the firing of the big guns or the exploding of the torpedoes. The features of these ships which had been so much praised as protective in the highest degree are proved by this accident to be elements of very great danger. The immense quantities of metal put into them make the dividing line between safety and danger a very narrow one. It is almost certain that in an actual engagement more lives would be sacrificed through the perils of the ships themselves than from the fighting.

It is to be hoped that the English people and all others will open their eyes to the folly of proceeding any further along this line of warship building. These huge monsters of the deep are out of all harmony with our time. They represent a spirit that is dying out. The English are paying heavily for their unwisdom, for others of their